

# Married ProVisors Members Leverage the Power of Two

By **Cindy Rakowitz** (married to David Adelman)

*Deborah Shames & David Booth, Sharon Berman & Jonathan Kramer, Eric Hawes & Judith Perez, Steven Craig & Susan Laine and Brian & Gerry Hemsworth may partner in businesses and/or office suites but they all make it a priority to leverage themselves as individual business leaders. Steven Craig, Structured Financial Partners, said it best, "What good is it being clones of each other if we are trying to develop new relationships?"*

As ProVisors members, we want to take advantage of building our own networking communities." **David Booth**, Eloqui and co-author of *Own The Room* added, "We have offices in the same building, but far apart, so that we can confer in a neutral space, or work together in one office, as we do when we see individual clients."

While the married members seem to have a lot in common in their approach to business, there is a wide range of hobbies. **Steve Goldstein**, Payroll Management Solutions (married to **Jennifer Goldstein**) has a hobby that has resulted in frequent media appearances lately to discuss the whereabouts of Michael Jackson's body. A "celebrity grave expert," Steve wrote the book *LA's Graveside Companion: Where the VIPs RIP*. Newlywed **Karen Rager-Takeda**, who recruited her husband **Steve Takeda** to ProVisors, enjoys ice-skating, and **Robert Wrede**, who is married to **Ranlyn Hill**, was a wrestler on the Cornell team. Interestingly, this diversity in interests does not apply to four-legged friends: the majority of married couples in ProVisors are pet lovers. **Sharon Berman** and **Jonathan Kramer** aptly describe their dogs as the family CEOs: canine efficiency officers (should all of our pets be so lucky!).

When it comes to charity, the couples provide support and donate their time to organizations ranging from the Girl Scouts and VIP Mentors to City of Hope and Women in Business. Many couples are devoted to health-related philanthropies: **Kathie & George Bloomfeld** support the American Heart Association as well as the Leukemia Foundation. For one couple, philanthropy hits close to home. **Susan Laine & Steve Craig** are cancer survivors and have shared a uniquely bonded path to recovery. Today, Susan and Steve are dedicated members of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. They were featured recently in the *Health Monitor* because the reporter overheard their story while they were at a troika.

They may not attend the same ProVisors events or network within the same industries, but these married members all encounter the age-old question: "How did you meet each other?" While no one responded that they had met at ProVisors, there are some great stories waiting to be told. Steve & Jennifer Goldstein met in 1998 through an online dating service, recalling that "We were pioneers of that medium and our friends thought we were crazy." Kathie & George Bloomfeld worked in the same

department at a west-coast magazine publisher, while **Eric Hawes & Judith Perez** met while reviewing for the Bar exam—but didn't go out on an actual date until after the exam. **Sharon Rich** fast forwards to her wedding to **Michael Leventhal**. "We had the best wedding ever, in Jerusalem on the hill overlooking the city, right at sunset as the Muslim call to prayer wafted up around us!"

Some ProVisors couples weren't sure if it was public knowledge that they were married. **Marlo Van Oorschot** shares a wonderful group meeting moment. "I had been a member for several years before **Jeremy [Wolf]**. When Jeremy became a member of the group, another member started to introduce us to each other. As she was making the introduction, I told her Jeremy and I already knew each other—in fact we had just woken up together. The member was immediately puzzled. Perhaps even shocked... I then told her we were married!"

ProVisors welcomes its newest married member, **Lisa Rosas**, who is married to **Cesar Rosas**. Other married couples include **Lee Schwartz & Olivia Goodkin**, **Jeff & Cindee Zabner**, and **Richard & Michelle Sinopoli**.